

SOUTHWICK-ON-WEAR
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT


ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF
SOUTHWICK-ON-WEAR,

BY

JOHN J. CARRUTHERS, M.B., C.M.,
Medical Officer of Health to the Southwick-on-Wear
Urban District Council.

FOR THE YEAR
—— 1921 ——

SOUTHWICK-ON-WEAR :
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ANNUAL REPORT,

1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Southwick-on-Wear
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1921.

POPULATION.

The population of the district, as estimated by the Registrar General, is 14,890, and on this figure the tables are based.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 481, or 86 less than the number for 1920. This is equal to a birth rate of 32·3 per thousand per annum, a decrease of 5·77 per thousand compared with the birth rate for 1920.

Table showing Birth Rates for the past 10 years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000.
1912	239	234	473	33·86
1913	259	206	465	33·07
1914	259	246	505	35·6
1915	226	207	433	30·5
1916	213	192	405	27·5
1917	167	154	321	22·01
1918	198	188	386	26·6
1919	221	173	394	27·2
1920	302	265	567	39·2
1921	238	243	481	32·3

Average birth rate for the past 10 years—30·78.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 127. This is equal to a death rate of 8·5 per thousand per annum. In public institutions and other places outside the district, 42 deaths occurred among persons belonging to the district, which makes the total number of deaths 169. The total death rate is, therefore, 11·3 per thousand. The number of deaths is 49 less than the number for 1920, and the death rate is lower by 3·2 per thousand.

Table showing Death Rates for the past 10 years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1912	184	13·2
1913	245	17·42
1914	240	16·92
1915	262	19·21
1916	246	18·10
1917	215	16·43
1918	294	22·7
1919	254	18·2
1920	218	15·08
1921	169	11·3

Average death rate for the past 10 years—16·85.

OLD AGE MORTALITY.

The old age mortality—the number of deaths of persons over the age of 65—was 47, which is 2 more than the number for 1920, and is equal to a mortality rate of 3·1.

Table showing Old Age Mortality during the past 10 years.

Age over 65 years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1912.....	37.....	2·6
1913.....	44.....	3·1
1914.....	47.....	3·3
1915.....	51.....	3·7
1916.....	46.....	3·3
1917.....	49.....	3·74
1918.....	43.....	3·33
1919.....	49.....	3·52
1920.....	45.....	3·11
1921.....	47.....	3·1

Average old age mortality for the past 10 years—3·2.

ADULT MORTALITY.

The adult mortality—that is the number of deaths of persons between the ages of 5 and 65 years—was 57, which is 25 less than the number for 1920, and is equal to a mortality rate of 3·8.

Table showing Adult Mortality during the past 10 years.

Ages between 5 and 65.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1912	91	6·5
1913	82	5·8
1914	87	6·1
1915	91	6·6
1916	104	7·6
1917	81	6·19
1918	137	10·61
1919	133	9·56
1920	82	5·67
1921	57	3·8

Average adult mortality for the past 10 years—6·84.

CHILDHOOD MORTALITY.

The childhood mortality—that is the number of deaths of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years—was 16, which is 17 less than the number for 1920, and is equal to a death rate of 1·06 per thousand.

Table showing Childhood Mortality for the past 10 years.

Ages between 1 and 5 years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1912.....	24.....	1'7
1913.....	37.....	2'6
1914.....	34.....	2'3
1915.....	55.....	4'0
1916.....	35.....	2'5
1917.....	36.....	2'75
1918.....	66.....	5'11
1919.....	26.....	1'87
1920.....	33.....	2'2
1921.....	16.....	1'06

Average childhood mortality for the past 10 years—2'6.

MORTALITY AMONG INFANTS.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 48, which is 10 less than the number for 1920, and is equal to a death rate of 3'2 per thousand.

Table showing Mortality among Infants under 1 year of age during the past 10 years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1912.....	32.....	2'2
1913.....	82.....	5'8
1914.....	72.....	5'07
1915.....	65.....	4'7
1916.....	58.....	4'27
1917.....	49.....	3'74
1918.....	48.....	3'71
1919.....	46.....	3'3
1920.....	58.....	4'01
1921.....	48.....	3'2

Average mortality among infants for past 10 years—4'0.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants in the district was 48. This is 10 less than the number for 1920, and makes the infantile mortality rate 100 per thousand births. This is 6 per thousand less than the rate for 1920.

Table showing Infantile Mortality during the past 10 years.

1912.....	67	per	1,000	births.
1913.....	176	„	„	„
1914.....	142	„	„	„
1915.....	150	„	„	„
1916.....	143	„	„	„
1917.....	152	„	„	„
1918.....	124	„	„	„
1919.....	116	„	„	„
1920.....	106	„	„	„
1921.....	100	„	„	„

Average infantile mortality for the past 10 years—127.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 65, which is 67 less than the number for 1920. They are classified as follows:—

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	3	2	...	11	16
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	1	...	1
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup.....	1	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	1	4	10
Other Tuberculosis	7	4	2	2	15
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	5	...	1	11
Malarial Fever...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	5	...	11
Totals	22	16	9	18	65

Table showing the number of notifications yearly for the past 10 years:—

Disease.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	61	74	85	45	36	33	46	97	49	16
Enteric Fever	7	8	2	3	2	1	1	2	...	1
Continued Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	10	9	8	9	7	2	5	...	1
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	2	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	27	23	18	20	31	19	32	23	21	10
Other Tuberculosis ...	...	17	18	25	28	23	39	20	21	15
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	13	396	214	63	...	...
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	34	11
Malarial Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	...	...	...	...	6	7	2	11	7	11

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

There were 37 deaths from zymotic diseases during the year. This is 15 more than the number for 1920, and is equal to a zymotic death rate of 2·4 per thousand.

CONFIGURATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Approaching its mouth, the river Wear flows eastward through a narrow valley. On a northern section of this valley, Southwick-on-Wear is situated. Excluding a narrow alluvial strip along the river side, the surface consists of clay soil over limestone. It has a very decided dip riverwards.

AREA OF DISTRICT.

Total Area	897'554	acres.
Area covered by water (portion of river Wear to centre).....	43'010	„
Area of Industrial Works and Railway	128'875	„
Area of Housed District.....	146'214	„
Agricultural Area	579'455	„

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The chief industries in the district are shipbuilding, marine engineering, and glass making. In all these industries the depression has continued throughout the year.

There are in the district 2,350 houses, or 2,891 tenements made up as follows:—

						Tene- Houses. ments
Self-contained houses	under £16 per annum...	1640...	1640			
„ flats	„ „ „	... 92...	184			
Other houses in 2 tenements	„ „	... 311...	622			
„ 3	„ „	... 37...	111			
„ 4	„ „	... 16...	64			
„ 5	„ „	... 4...	20			
		2100	2641			
Houses over £16 per annum	.....	250...	250			
		2350	2891			

Of the houses that are fit for occupation, there are none untenanted in the district.

BUILDING TRADE.

During the year there were no dwelling-houses erected otherwise than under the Council's State-aided Scheme.

Of the 24 houses (48 flats) each flat containing living-room, scullery, bath, and 3 bedrooms, on sites in Dryden Street, Beaumont Street and Shakespeare Street, a contract for the erection of which was, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, entered into by the Council in December, 1920, 24 flats were completed and occupied at the end of the year, and the remaining flats were near completion.

Ten Type A self-contained houses (living-room, scullery, bathroom and 3 bedrooms), and 22 Type B self-contained houses (parlour, living-room, scullery, bathroom and 3 bedrooms), part of the scheme for the erection on behalf

of the Council of 100 houses by H.M. Office of Works, on the Marley Pots Housing Site, were completed and occupied at the end of the year.

The work in connection with the erection of 12 Type B houses on the Ridley Street Site, and 8 of a similar type on the Burntland Avenue Site was near completion at the end of the year, and it was hoped to have the same occupied early in the year 1922.

The provision of the houses referred to has apparently mitigated the overcrowding in the district to a very small extent, and as the survey of housing needs made by the Council in 1920, and provisionally approved by the Housing Commissioner on behalf of the Ministry of Health, estimated the number of working-class dwellings required during the ensuing three years to be 600, it would appear to be necessary that the Council should take into consideration the erection of additional houses.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate for the year amounted to 32·3 per thousand, or 6·9 per thousand below last year's rate, and 1·52 per thousand more than the average for the past 10 years.

DEATH RATE.

The death rate for the year is 11·3 per thousand, which is 3·78 lower than the rate for the year 1920, and 5·55 per thousand under the average for the past 10 years.

	Old Age. Over 65 years.	Adult. Between 5 and 65.	Childhood. Between 1 and 5.	Infantile. Under 1 year.
1920	3.11	5.67	2.2	4.01
1921	3.1	3.8	1.06	3.2
	Decr'se 0.10	Decr'se 1.87	Decr'se 1.14	Decr'se 0.81

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The infantile mortality for the year 1921 is 100 per thousand births, as compared with 106 for the year 1920.

DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

The number of deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other diseases of the Respiratory Organs, was 41, being 3 less than in 1920.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Phthisis caused 12 deaths, which is the same number recorded for the previous year, and the number of deaths from Tubercular Diseases, other than Phthisis, was 5, which is 10 less than 1920.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 10, and other Tuberculosis 15, making a combined total of 25.

INQUESTS.

The number of Inquests held during the year was 3, and the cause of death classified as follows:—

Accidental Injuries	1
Suicide	1
Natural Causes	1

TYPHOID FEVER.

Only one case was notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Only one case was notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was 16, or 33 less than in 1920.

Pneumonia 11, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 11.

THE FOLLOWING ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Notification of Births Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Venereal Diseases Act.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Tuberculosis Scheme.

WATER SUPPLY.

All the houses in the district are supplied with water by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The water is pumped from deep wells in the magnesian limestone to a reservoir, which at low pressure will reach 200 feet above ordnance datum. The ground floor of the highest situated house in the district is 173 feet above ordnance datum.

The water is wholesome for domestic use, and the supply plentiful.

The water for Thistley Hall has still to be carted.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The Cowsheds and Dairies were regularly inspected, and conditions generally were satisfactory. The average number of cows in the district was 87. They were inspected periodically by the Council's Veterinary Surgeon, and no case of Tuberculosis of the udder was found.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases removed to the Hospital for treatment was 14. All were Scarlet Fever. 87·5 per cent. of the cases were removed.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

Accommodation for the reception and treatment of cases of Smallpox is provided at the Whiteleas Smallpox Hospital by the North-East Durham Joint Smallpox Hospital Board, of which the District Council is one of the constituent authorities.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The County Council is the authority for this purpose.

SCAVENGING.

This work is carried out by men employed by and under the direct supervision of the Council. All the material is deposited on the fields of farmers in the neighbourhood.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 18 butcher shops in the district. Of these, 6 have slaughter houses, 4 slaughter in their shops, and the

others do not slaughter. There are no specially certificated meat inspectors.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

FACTORIES.

The number of Factories in the district is 12.

Shipbuilding Yards	4	Joinery Works	5
Glass Works.....	1	Printing Works.....	1
Engine Works	1		

WORKSHOPS.

The number of Workshops in the district is 38.

Retail Bakehouses	20	Wheelwrights.....	1
Shoemakers	6	Blacksmiths	1
Dressmakers.....	6	Tripe Preparers.....	1
Milliners.....	1	Stocking Knitters	2

The factories and workshops were regularly inspected, and it was found that the requirements of the Act were sufficiently observed.

HOME WORKERS.

The number of Home Workers in the district on the register is 3. They were engaged in dressmaking. The condition of the workers' houses was satisfactory.

SEWERS.

The Sewers answered all requirements during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN J. CARRUTHERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

28th April, 1922.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of acres covered by water) 844'544.

Total Population at all ages.....	14,642	} At Census of 1921.
Number of inhabited houses		
Average number of persons per house		

INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT
RECEIVING SICK AND INFIRM PERSONS
FROM THE DISTRICT:—

Durham County Asylum, Sedgefield.

Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital.

South Shields Rural and Southwick-on-Wear Joint
Isolation Hospital, Boldon.

Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

Sunderland Union Workhouse.

Eye Infirmary, Sunderland.

Children's Hospital, Sunderland.

The Sunderland Union Workhouse is not within the District.

TABLE SHOWING CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Malaria.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	8	16
Typhoid Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	6	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	2	2	17
Other Tuberculosis	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	8
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	..	1	1	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	11
Pneumonia .....	..	3	2	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	11
Totals.....	3	8	11	4	4	8	3	4	2	5	3	10	65

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the year 1921, in the Urban
District of Southwick-on-Wear.

1—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of
Nuisances
abated after
Notice.

Dwelling Houses and Schools—	
Damp Walls.....	...
Defective Roofs	9
Other Defects .....	...
Defective Spouts	9
Structural Defects.....	...
Lodging Houses.....	...
Dairies and Milkshops .....	...
Cowsheds .....	...
Bakehouses .....	...
Slaughter-houses .....	...
Ashpits and Privies .....	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....	...
Water Closets in lieu of Ashpit privies	25
Ashpits provided.....	...
Defective Yard Paving.....	10
Defective Wash House Paving.....	...
House Drainage—	
Traps	19
New Inspection Chambers .....	...
Choked Drains	40
Water Supply	2
Want of Wash House .....	...
Poultry Improperly Kept.....	...
Water Closets Defective	12
Defective Ventilation .....	...
Other Nuisances.....	64
Total.....	190

2—WATER, FOOD, AND DRUGS.

	No.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis .....	...
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use.....	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food .....	...
Convictions for Exposing or Selling Unwholesome Food.....	...
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis .....	...
Samples of Food found adulterated.....	...

3—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	No.
Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	21
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	21
Schools Disinfected after Infectious Disease .....	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ...	...
Convictions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things.....	...

4—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year	56
Number of such Houses occupied during the Year	56
Ashpit Privies converted into Ash Closets .....	...
Ashpit Privies converted into Water Closets	12
Ash Closets converted into Water Closets	13
New Water Closets	59
Total Number of Water Closets in District	1405
Total Number of Ash Closets in District	741
Total Number of Ashpit Privies in District	401

Rainfall during the year 1921, as recorded by Mr. John R. Hodgson, at Southwick Cemetery.

RAINFALL.

Rain Gauge. { Diameter of Funnel, 8 in.
 { Height of Top { Above Ground, 1 ft.
 { Above Sea Level, 171 ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with .04 or more recorded.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
Jan.	4.5	1.77	12	14
Feb.	0.29	0.08	6	5
Mar.	0.79	0.15	25	11
Apr.	1.25	0.43	24	12
May	2.42	0.47	6	13
June	1.39	0.78	26	9
July	2.15	0.61	29	12
Aug.	6.63	1.84	29	21
Sept.	0.99	0.62	13	6
Oct.	2.36	1.33	22	7
Nov.	3.32	1.34	5	12
Dec.	1.14	0.35	26	11
Total...	26.78			133

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOUTHWICK-ON-WEAR, 1921.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	88	81
Enteric fever .....	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	1
Scarlet fever .....	...	...
Whooping cough .....	...	4
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Influenza	1	...
Encephalitis lethargica .....	...	...
Meningococcal meningitis .....	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7	5
Other tuberculous diseases.....	2	3
Cancer, malignant disease	4	3
Rheumatic fever.....	...	...
Diabetes .....	...	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	8	5
Heart Disease.....	1	10
Arterio-sclerosis	1	1
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	8
Other respiratory diseases	3	...
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum...	...	...
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	10	5
Appendicitis and typhlitis .....	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver.....	...	...
Acute and chronic nephritis	1	1
Puerperal sepsis.....	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition .....	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	9	8
Suicide	2	1
Other deaths from violence	2	1
Other defined diseases.....	19	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...
Special causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Polioencephalitis .....	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year of		
Age—Total	27	21
Illegitimate	2	6
TOTAL BIRTHS	238	243
Legitimate	226	229
Illegitimate	12	14

POPULATION.....14,890.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,

During the Year 1921.

	Birth rate per 1,000 total population	Annual Death rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 births		Percentage of total deaths			
		All Causes	Enteric fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total deaths under 1 year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified causes	Inquest cases	Uncertified causes of death
England and Wales	22.4	12.1	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.23	0.44	15.5	83	25.5	92.5	6.4	1.1
96 Great Towns, including London (Census populations exceeding 50,000)...	23.3	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.15	0.23	0.40	19.3	87	33.2	92.5	6.8	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (Census populations 20,000-50,000)	22.7	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.26	0.35	15.6	84	17.7	93.5	5.1	1.4
London	22.3	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.23	0.42	21.3	80	49.2	91.6	8.2	0.2

